

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /069 W
-----181837Z 122896 /44

R 181323Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5770
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY MADRID

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 2715

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, IS, PO
SUBJECT: ISRAEL AND PORTUGAL ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

1. ACCORDING TO AN ANNOUNCEMENT IN JERUSALEM, ISRAEL AND PORTUGAL AGREED APRIL 16 TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE ANNOUNCEMENT CAME AS THE RESULT OF AN UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN PORTUGUESE PRIME MINISTER SOARES AND ISRAELI DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ALLON WHO WERE BOTH IN AMSTERDAM FOR A SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL MEETING.

2. IN BRIEFING THE CABINET APRIL 17, MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL AVINERI SAID THAT WITHIN A FEW WEEKS THE ISRAELI CONSULATE IN LISBON WOULD BECOME AN EMBASSY. PORTUGAL, HOWEVER, WOULD NOT ESTABLISH ITS EMBASSY IN ISRAEL FOR SEVERAL MONTHS BECAUSE IT PRESENTLY HAS NO REPRESENTATION HERE.

3. IN A CONVERSATION APRIL 18, MFA DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL EVRON TOLD THE CHARGE THAT EPHRAIM ELDAR, NOW CONSUL IN LISBON, WILL BECOME THE FIRST ISRAELI AMBASSADOR TO PORTUGAL. WHEN THE CHARGE INQUIRED
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WHETHER THE PORTUGUESE HAD BEEN ASKED TO ESTABLISH THEIR EMBASSY IN JERUSALEM RATHER THAN IN TEL AVIV, EVRON REPLIED HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT QUESTION HAD YET ARISEN. "WE ARE JUST SO PLEASED TO HAVE THEM IN THE COUNTRY THAT WE HAVE NOT YET CONSIDERED WHERE THEY SHOULD ESTABLISH THEIR EMBASSY."

4. COMMENT: THE PORTUGUESE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY COME UNDER CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE TO OPEN IN JERUSALEM. IF THE DEPARTMENT BELIEVES ADVISABLE, AN APPROACH MIGHT BE MADE IN LISBON TO POINT OUT THE IMPLICATIONS OF A CHOICE OF SITE FOR THE EMBASSY. DUNNIGAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TELAV02715
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770134-0380
Format: TEL
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770445/aaaabmzs.tel
Line Count: 68
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9f5d3aa3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2771008
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ISRAEL AND PORTUGAL ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, IS, PO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9f5d3aa3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009